

MIKE COFFMAN
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0606

April 17, 2013

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young
Chairman, Defense Appropriations
Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington , DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member, Committee on
Appropriations
U.S House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Visclosky
Ranking Member, Defense Appropriations
Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Rogers, Chairman Young, Ranking Member Lowey, and Ranking Member Visclosky:

I know that you and other members of the Appropriations Committee will be working diligently to identify possible savings as you compile the Fiscal Year 2014 Appropriations bill. As you work to find these savings, I ask you to consider responsible reductions to the defense budget.

I believe our current financial situation requires us to identify spending reductions throughout the budget, including in the defense budget. However, we should do so in a responsible manner, with targeted reductions in less critically important areas. Our nation should not have to undergo another round of unwise, across-the-board cuts sequester cuts. We can instead find reductions by reforming our spending policies and taking advantage of efficiencies.

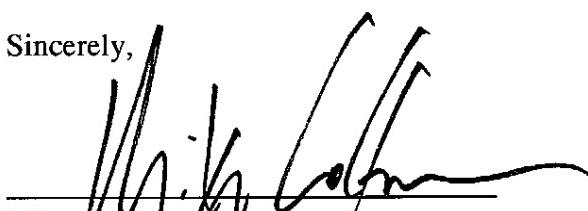
Toward that end, I have identified several bipartisan defense budget options that would generate significant savings. When searching for programs that can be reduced, delayed, or cancelled, I urge you to consider:

1. Reducing spending on “Other Procurement,” with a goal of reducing spending by \$52 billion over 10 years.

2. Reducing spending on the number of Defense civilian positions with the goal of reducing their number by 100,000 through retirement and voluntary attrition, and saving \$36.7 billion over 10 years.
3. Reducing spending for all Brigade Combat Teams, combat aviation assets, and supporting units in European deployment, with a goal of reducing spending by \$20 billion over 10 years.
4. Reducing spending for contractor augmentees, with a goal of reducing spending by \$15 billion over 10 years.
5. Reducing spending on the management of the three Post Exchange systems, with the goal of consolidating them to achieve savings of \$7.1 billion over 10 years.
6. Postponing spending for the procurement of the Army's Ground Combat Vehicle until at least 2023.
7. Delaying spending for the refurbishment of the Abrams tank.
8. Reducing spending on all military bands by \$188 million.
9. Reducing spending on generals and admirals, with a goal of reducing their total number to 800 over 10 years.
10. Reducing spending on active duty soldiers and Marines with the goal of transferring 65,000 such personnel to the National Guard and Reserve over 10 years.

I respectfully request that you consider these proposals which if carried out would save the government hundreds of billions of dollars over the next ten years. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Mike Coffman
Member of Congress